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SAVAGE TALES

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CONTENTS

5th TO THE 1st
by Doug Murray and Michael Golden 5

SKYWARRIORS: MARLA
by Herb Trimpe 13

AVENGER
by Archie Goodwin and John Severin 29

BLOOD & GUTZ: A PIZZA
by Will Jungkuntz 41

ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE
by Don Kraar and Gray Morrow 56

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EDITORIAL SPACE FILLER

Here it is, the first issue ever of **SAVAGE TALES**. Hope you like it and if you don't, "xin-loi" to you and the cat that dragged you in. You won't find any super-heroes in these pages. Our characters don't feel guilty about what they do. No long dissertations on philosophy either. What kind of jerk reads a comic book for philosophy? You want philosophy, read Schoepen-hauer, Kierkegaard and Proust. They wrote it good. Do you like distended bitter diatribes on the subject of "Violence Never Solves Anything"? You're not going to like **SAVAGE TALES**. Violence certainly does solve things. It solved Hitler, didn't it? What you get in this mag is straight-forward adventure, rip-roaring action and nifty historical stuff with a few yocks thrown in for extra measure. The staff and I had a ball putting this book together and we hope you have as much fun reading it!

LARRY HAMA

A few words about our contributors:

DOUG MURRAY is one heck of a nice guy. He's also twice as big as me and was crazy enough to volunteer for EOD and re-up for a second tour in-country! Doug also had a bad habit of being in places that got overrun. I think we'll keep him.

MIKE GOLDEN doesn't have a phone. He gets his messages in a biker bar down in Daytona Beach. But no one had to tell him that a belt of 7.62 NATO is loaded into an M-60 with every fourth round a tracer as well as the last three. (See the cover) I like that. He also rides a Harley. 'Nuff said.

DON KRAAR hails from Atlanta and we promised not to hold that against him. Don seems to know an awful lot about some pretty obscure stuff — For all we know, he could be making it all up. Does it really matter? What would Schoepenhauer think?

JOHN SEVERIN has been drawing the best tough-guy action comics in the world since the days of **Two-Fisted Tales**. The man is a legend, what more can I say?

ARCHIE GOODWIN was the editor of **Blazing Combat** back when Frank Frazetta was still painting covers for magazines. Not only was Archie the editor, he wrote *every story in the book! Is it true you get faster as you* get older, Arch?

WILL JUNGKUNTZ is his real name and don't ask me how it's pronounced.

GRAY MORROW owns a horse named Autumn and he's a better shot than I am with a .45 ACP. Gray, not Autumn. Autumn's a "she" anyway.

MICHAEL DOCHERTY lives in California and has a strange accent. He does an occasional illustration for **Easy Riders** so he must be O.K.

DAVE SIMONS sent us a picture of his new tattoo. It's either on his right arm or his head is on backwards . . .

VINCENT WALLER wandered in from Dallas one day with a bag of greasy chicken and a six-pack. Watch for his strip **The Good Old Boys** in future issues. It's being written by Don Kraar.

HERB TRIMPE owns and flies his own Stearman bi-plane out of Rhinebeck in upstate New York. He drives his scoot from his house to where he parks the plane but it's not a Harley so we won't even mention it by name.

Next issue, we'll have more jumpin' stuff from the same crew with a few additions here and there. And next issue, this space will be filled by a letter column if enough of you out there write in. We're waiting to hear *from you. Send your praises, gripes or I-don't-cares to:*

SAVAGE TALES c/o
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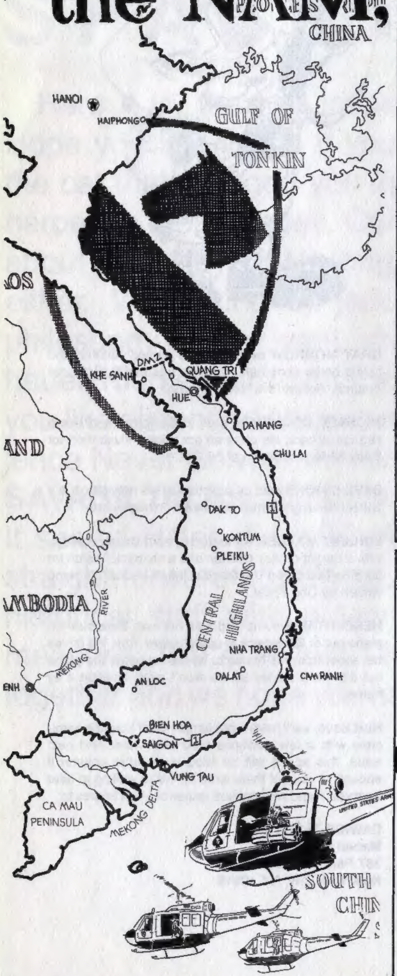
New York City, NY 10016

5th TO THE 1st.
BY DOUG MURRAY & MICHAEL GOLDEN

the 'NAM, 1967



SP5 AMIL PAWLEY--'CROAKER'--OUR MEDIC. A QUAKER WHO'LL PRAY FOR THE ENEMY, BUT'LL SINGE HIS BUTT PULLING YOURS OUT OF THE FIRE.
SP4 GARLAND BREMBY--A STREETWISE CITY KID WHO'S A ROCK IN A PICKLE--BEST POKER PLAYER I'VE EVER SEEN.
US
SP4 PAUL HOGAN AND PFC JOHN DUFF--'HEAD' AND 'FATS'--THESE TWO 'EXPERIMENT' WITH 'CONSCIOUSNESS-EXPANDING DRUGS,' BUT THEY GET THE JOB DONE.
ALL IN ALL, THIS AIN'T 'SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOES'. NO HEROES HERE.

WHAT MAKES A HERO? HELL, I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO BE, I GOT DRAFTED JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. I'M ONLY WEARING THIS BAR BECAUSE I FIGURED I COULD GET OUT OF K·P· THAT WAY. BUT I'LL TELL YOU, I KNEW A HERO ONCE.
WE'D JUST GOTTEN THIS NEW REPLACEMENT, SANTOS HIS NAME WAS. HE WAS A PUERTO-RICAN KID FROM NEW YORK. A REAL HOT-SHOT. ENLISTED WHEN HE WAS SEVENTEEN, WANTED TO GET A MEDAL TO PROVE HE WAS A MAN. TO PROVE HE WAS AN AMERICAN.
HE WAS A GUNNER. SHOT EXPERT WITH EVERYTHING THE ARMY HAD. WE'D GOTTEN ORDERS TO SEND A SQUAD OUT FOR AN AMBUSH NEAR THE 'Z', AND I FIGURED I'D TAKE HIM ALONG AND SEE WHAT HE WAS MADE OF.
WE CHOPPERED OUT TO AN LZ ABOUT 20 KLICKS FROM THE 'Z' AND PACKED THE REST OF THE WAY ON FOOT. SET UP AN AMBUSH ALONG ONE OF THE LITTLE TRACKS CHARLIE USED TO BRING IN MEN AND SUPPLIES.

THE SECOND NIGHT OUT, WE CAUGHT A LITTLE COLUMN OF CHARLIE ON THE PATH AND WE BLASTED THE HELL OUT OF THEM.
THE NEXT MORNING WE STARTED BACK.
SANTOS HAD DONE OK IN THE AMBUSH, AND THE SARGE PUT HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LINE ON THE RETURN. WE WERE ONLY A COUPLE OF MILES FROM OUR LZ AND I WAS STARTING TO THINK ABOUT A TALL COLD ONE WHEN IT HAPPENED.

WE'D COME THROUGH THIS LITTLE VILLAGE ON THE WAY OUT, I DON'T THINK IT HAD A NAME, IT SURE WASN'T ON ANY MAPS. WHEN WE HIT IT ON THE WAY BACK I KNEW WE WERE CLOSE TO THE LZ. ANYWAY, WHEN WE WENT THROUGH THE VILLAGE IT SEEMED DESERTED-- THAT SHOULD HAVE TIPPED US OFF. BUT THE FIRST THING WE KNEW, WE WERE CATCHING FIRE FROM ALL DIRECTIONS!
CHARLIE HAD CLEANED THE VILLAGE OUT AND PUT HEAVY MACHINE GUNS IN HUTS AT BOTH ENDS--THOSE GUNS CUT US TO RIBBONS IN THE FIRST FEW MINUTES. THE TAIL-END OF THE PATROL WAS WIPED OUT IN NOTHING FLAT!
THE SARGE, A COUPLE OF RIFLEMEN, HEAD AND I WERE FLAT IN THE MUD WITH NO WAY OUT. THE FIRE WAS SO HEAVY WE COULDN'T RAISE UP ENOUGH TO THROW A GRENADE, BUT A '79 MIGHT DO.
HEAD STILL HAD HIS, BUT WAS DAMN NEAR OUT OF ROUNDS. HE'D FIRED OFF A BUNCH AT THE AMBUSH, AND LOST A COUPLE WADING A RIVER ON THE WAY BACK. HE SHOUTED TO ME THAT HE HAD ONE H.E. (HIGH EXPLOSIVE) LEFT. AND HE PLUGGED THAT SUCKER AT THE MG BEHIND US.
WELL, HIS SHOT WAS RIGHT ON, BUT A '79 ROUND HAS TO ROTATE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF TIMES AFTER IT'S FIRED TO ARM THE EXPLOSIVE--THAT'S SO YOU DON'T ACCIDENTLY HIT A TREE OR BUSH IN FRONT OF YOU AND BLOW THE CRAP OUT OF YOURSELF. THAT HUT WAS JUST TOO CLOSE.
THE ROUND IMPACTED RIGHT NEXT TO CHARLIE'S WINDOW--BUT IT DIDN'T GO OFF--IT JUST STUCK THERE!

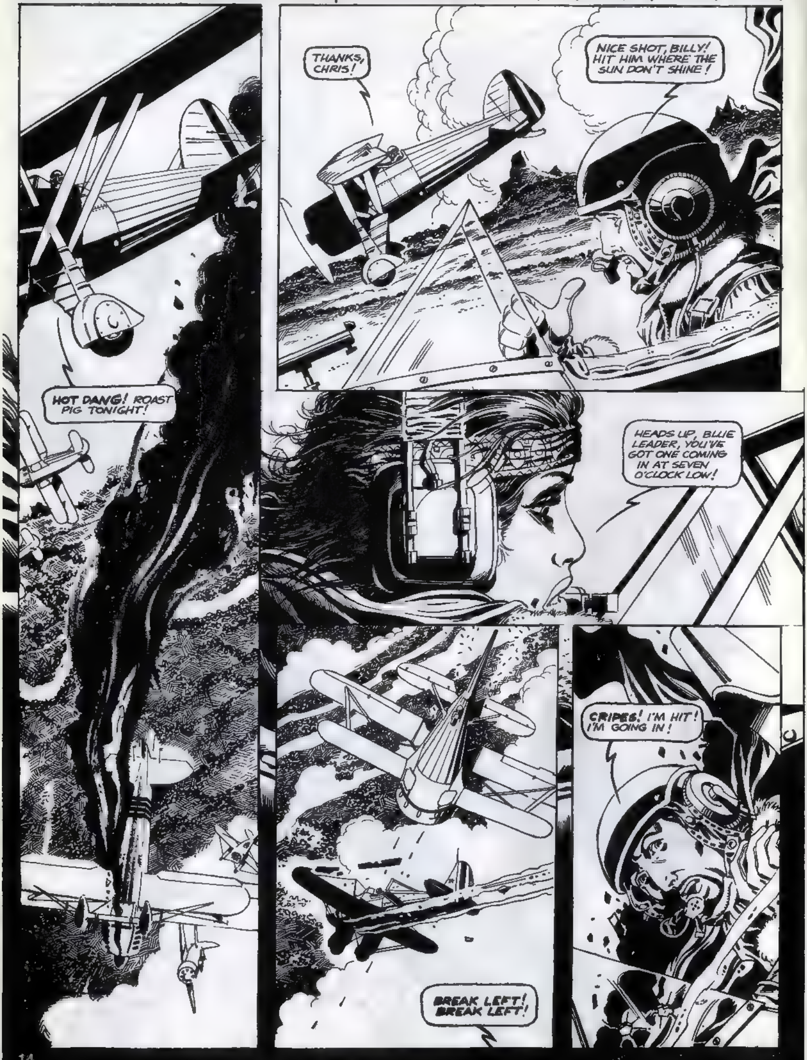
I FIGURED THAT WAS IT FOR US. WHEN THE FLANKERS CAME IN, AND THEY'D COME AS SOON AS THEY HEARD THE FIRING, A COUPLE OF US MIGHT MAKE IT OUT. BUT MOST OF US WOULD HAVE BOUGHT IT BY THEN. THEN I **SAW** SOMETHING! SANTOS HAD BEEN HIT IN THE FIRST BURST, AND I THOUGHT HE WAS DONE ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE TAIL-END. BUT HE WAS GETTING TO HIS FEET! HE CHARGED RIGHT AT CHARLIE'S GUN, GOT HIT THREE OR FOUR MORE TIMES, TOO. BUT HE KEPT ON HIS FEET, AND JUST THREW HIS **BODY** AT THAT '79 ROUND!
THE ROUND FELL OUT OF THE WALL, ROTATED A COUPLE OF TIMES, HIT THE GROUND AND BLEW UP. CHARLIE'S GUN WAS SHOT TO HELL, AND WITH THE CROSSFIRE GONE, SARGE MANAGED TO PUT A GRENADE DOWN ON CHARLIE'S OTHER GUN. WE CLEANED UP IN A HURRY, AND I CALLED IN A MEDIVAC **DUST-OFF** FOR THE WOUNDED.

I NEVER FOUND ENOUGH OF SANTOS TO SEND BACK. EVEN HIS DOGTAGS WERE GONE. BUT I ***REMEMBERED*** WHAT HE DID. THE CAPTAIN WANTED TO PUT HIM IN FOR THE SILVER STAR, BUT THOSE WERE A DIME-A-DOZEN. HELL, THEY WERE EVEN GIVING THEM TO DOGS IN THE SOUTH. I HELD OUT FOR THE ***CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR***. AND HE GOT IT.

THE SKYWARRIORS

NOW, FIRST OFF, I'M NOT GETTING INTO ALL THIS BUSINESS ABOUT HOW THINGS TURNED OUT THE WAY THEY DID, OR WHO WAS TO BLAME OR NOT TO BLAME. IN SHORT, I'M NOT GOING TO START AT THE BEGINNING. SUFFICE TO SAY, AND YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD FOR THIS, THAT WE ARE THE *GOOD* GUYS AND THEY ARE THE BAD GUYS. SO WHAT WE'LL DO IS, I THINK WE'LL START SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE. JUST TO SHOW THE KIND OF GUY SHE IS, I'LL START WITH...

MARLA WAS, UNTIL ABOUT TWELVE YEARS AGO, MISS CENTRAL AMERICA. 'HUH?' YOU SAY. DON'T ASK. I'LL EXPLAIN IN A MINUTE. SHE WAS NINETEEN THEN AND QUITE THE DARLING OF THE RULING CLASSES. UNKNOWN TO THEM, SHE WAS FIGHTING IN THE HILLS AS A LEFTIST REBEL.



I MENTION THIS TO UNDERLINE THE FACT THAT MARLA IS A FIGHTER FIRST, A LOVER SECOND. AT LEAST AS FAR AS I KNOW. NEVER MIND. SHE KNEW HOW TO FLY A PLANE THEN AND SHE FLIES ONE NOW. SHE'S VERY GOOD, TOO. WHICH LEADS TO THIS.

IF MARLA HAD NOT BEEN MISS CENTRAL AMERICA AND HAD NOT BEEN PART OF THE MISS BEAUTY WORLD TOUR OVER HERE IN THE GOOD OLD U.S. OF A., WE'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN THE BENEFIT OF HER OTHER TALENT. BEFORE YOU SMILE, I'M TALKING EXPLOSIVES. SHE PICKED UP THIS LITTLE TALENT IN THE JUNGLE MOUNTAINS AND IT'S SAVED US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

WITH A HUNK OF PLASTIC SHE CAN PART YOUR HAIR WITHOUT CRACKING YOUR SKULL. AND IF W.W. THREE HADN'T INTERRUPTED HER LIFE SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN MISS BEAUTY WORLD TO BOOT. NOT BAD FOR A LITTLE LADY AND ALL PACKED IN A NEAT FIVE FOOT SIX INCH FRAME.

SO, ANYWAY. THERE WE WERE ON THE DAY OF 'THE BIG ONE,' ALTHOUGH AT THE TIME WE SURE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS 'THE BIG ONE', IF WE DID WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE FOUND SOMETHING BETTER TO DO, ALTHOUGH IT WAS PRECISELY WHERE WE WERE THAT SAVED OUR BACON. WELL, WHERE IN HELL WERE WE, YOU ASK. GOOD QUESTION. WE WERE UNDERGROUND. THAT'S RIGHT.

WE WERE TOURISTS AT A PLACE CALLED 'NATURAL CAVERNS.' ONE BUS LOAD OF SAC PERSONNEL FROM THE LOCAL BASE, THAT'S US, AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, ONE BUS LOAD OF 'MISS BEAUTY WORLD' FINALISTS. WE HAD THE WIVES, KIDS, THE WHOLE NINE YARDS. NOT ME, THOUGH, I'M SINGLE.

BUT THEN AGAIN, NOT EVERYBODY'S AS SMART AS ME. LATER, WHEN IT WAS OVER AND WE GOT THE LIGHTS BACK ON WITH AN AUXILIARY GENERATOR, COLONEL SCOTT, KNOWN TO ALL AS SCOTTY, TOOK CHARGE. HIS STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME. MARLA, HOWEVER, WAS THE BALL OF FIRE.

SHE ORGANIZED THE GIRLS INTO JUST ABOUT THE MEANEST GUERRILLA FORCE THAT YOU'D EVER WANT TO TANGLE WITH. AND A FEW UNDER HER GUIDING HAND BECAME EXCELLENT PILOTS. ANYWAY, WE STAYED UNDERGROUND, SCARED TO MAKE A MOVE OUTSIDE. WE RATIONED THE STORES OF A SNACK BAR AND FINALLY, AFTER SIX WEEKS OF HOTDOGS, GOT A RADIO WORKING.

WE PICKED UP AN EMERGENCY BROADCAST WHICH ANNOUNCED TO ALL THAT MIGHT BE LISTENING THAT IT WAS RELATIVELY SAFE TO COME OUT. WHATEVER THAT MEANT. MEDICAL SUPPLIES WERE NEEDED, DOCTORS, FOOD AND ALL THE REST. SO WE SURFACED AND I TELL YOU, THERE WAS NOBODY HOME BUT US CHICKENS. ABSOLUTE DESOLATION. OUR BASE, NATURALLY, HAD BEEN A TARGET.

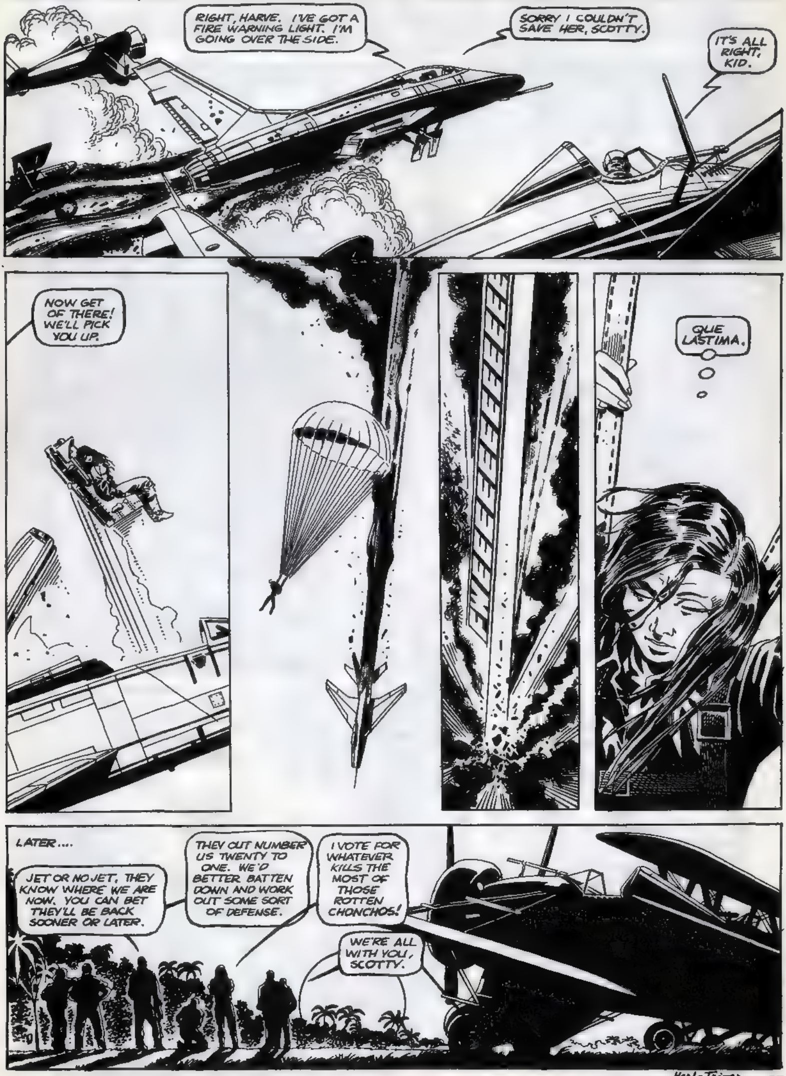
WE DECIDED TO MOVE TO GREENER PASTURES, SO TO SPEAK. WE GRABBED WHAT FOOD THAT WAS LEFT AND ABOUT NINETY OF US SET OFF. WE'RE FEWER NOW, ONLY EIGHTEEN. ANOTHER TALE FOR LATER ON. THE WEEKS AND MONTHS PASSED AND WE MANAGED, WITH EFFORT, TO SURVIVE.

THE WORLD AS WE KNEW IT WAS GONE. A KIND OF TRIBAL EXISTENCE DEVELOPED. IT GOT VICIOUS. WITH TECHNOLOGY DESTROYED, TRIBAL BATTLES WERE FOUGHT FOR POSSESSION OF A SET OF TOOLS. GROUPS WERE CUT DOWN, WEEDED OUT. SOME COMBINED AND GOT STRONGER. A NASTY GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES THE 'NATION FOR GREATER POWER', EMERGED SUPREME.

THERE WERE A FEW SMALL GROUPS LEFT BUT THEY WERE ALL FORCED INTO HIDING SO AS NOT TO BE CRUSHED BY OR ABSORBED INTO THE G.P. NATION, OR 'GREASE PIGS' AS WE CALL THEM. THEY'VE GOT A LEADER, A GUY BY THE NAME OF DUNNINGER WHO'S AS RUTHLESS AS THEY COME.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT THAT CAN STILL HIT THIS SUCKER AND MAKE IT HURT. SCOTTY GETS THE CREDIT THERE. HE'S MANAGED TO KEEP OUR CRATES FLYING. THEY'RE ALL MUSEUM PIECES. MUSEUMS WERE THE ONLY PLACES THAT MACHINES SURVIVED.

THE ONLY MACHINES THAT WE HAD A CHANCE OF MAINTAINING WERE THE ONES THAT WERE TECHNICALLY SIMPLE. THE GREASE PIG JET BEING THE EXCEPTION. TRICKY SUCKERS THAT THEY ARE. WELL, LOOK. I'VE GOT KITCHEN DUTY IN FIVE MINUTES. BE BACK LATER. SEE YOU AROUND.



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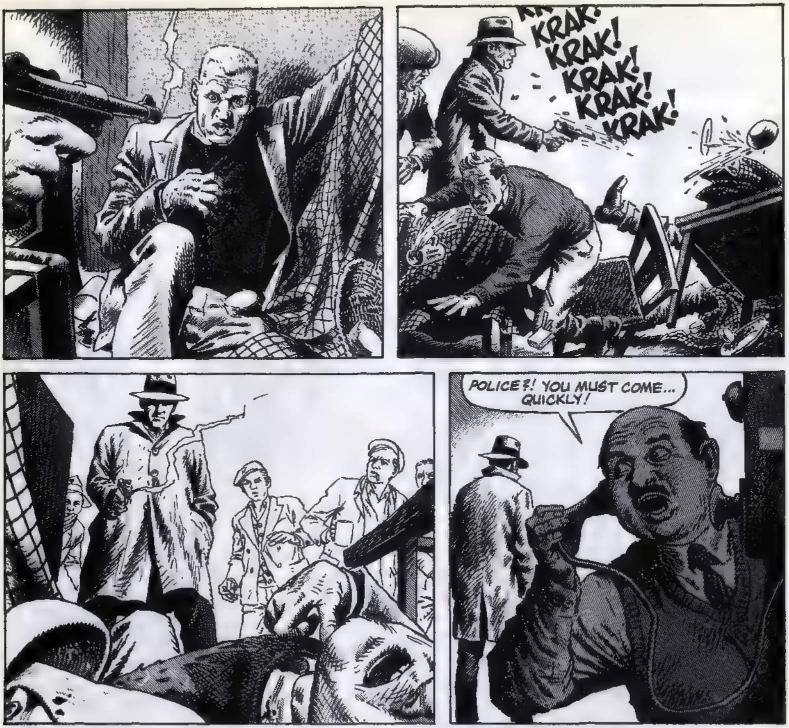
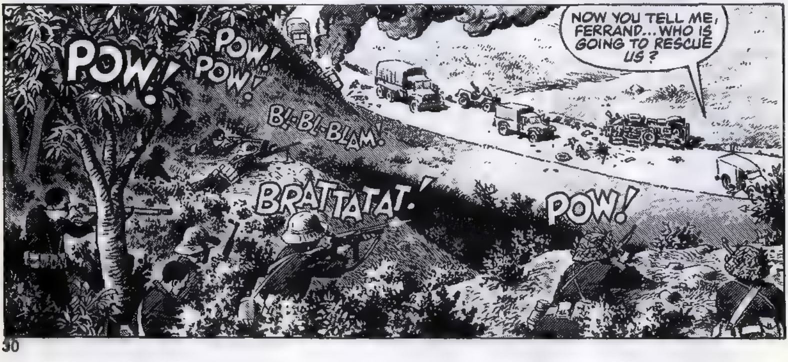
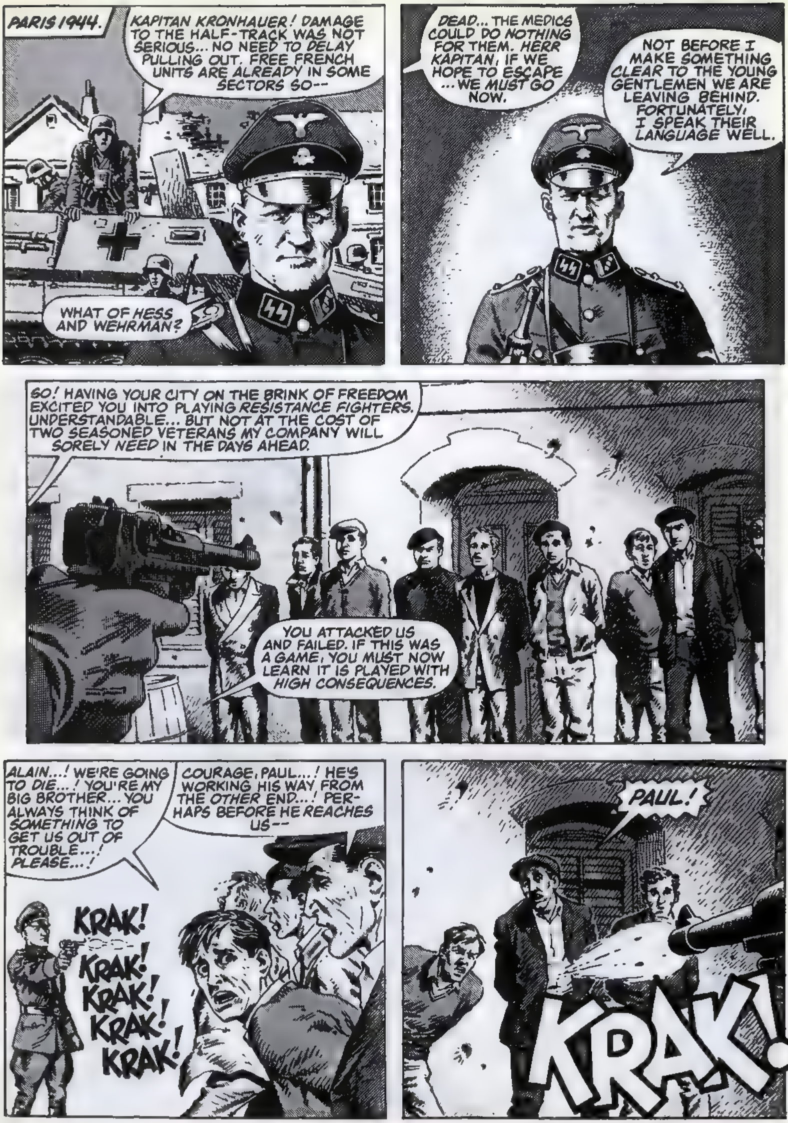
PARIS 1955. A CHILL, WET NIGHT IN THE MARKETING DISTRICT OF LES HALLES. TRUCK DRIVERS AND VENDORS SEEK OUT THE WARMTH AND CHEER OF THE AREA'S MANY SMALL BISTROS. THERE, OVER WINE AND ONION SOUP, THEY CAN ARGUE ABOUT THE WAR RECENTLY CLOSED IN INDO-CHINA, OF THE ONE STARTING TO EMERGE IN ALGERIA. AT LE CHIEN QUI FUME THE ARGUMENTS OFTEN CARRY MORE AUTHORITY FOR IT IS POPULAR WITH VETERANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO SERVED IN LA LEGION ETRANGERE; THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION.



INDO-CHINA 1950. NORTH OF HANOI ON *ROUTE COLONIALE NO. 4* FORCES OF THE CHINESE-TRAINED VIETMINH CLOSE THEIR TRAP ON A FRENCH RESCUE COLUMN.



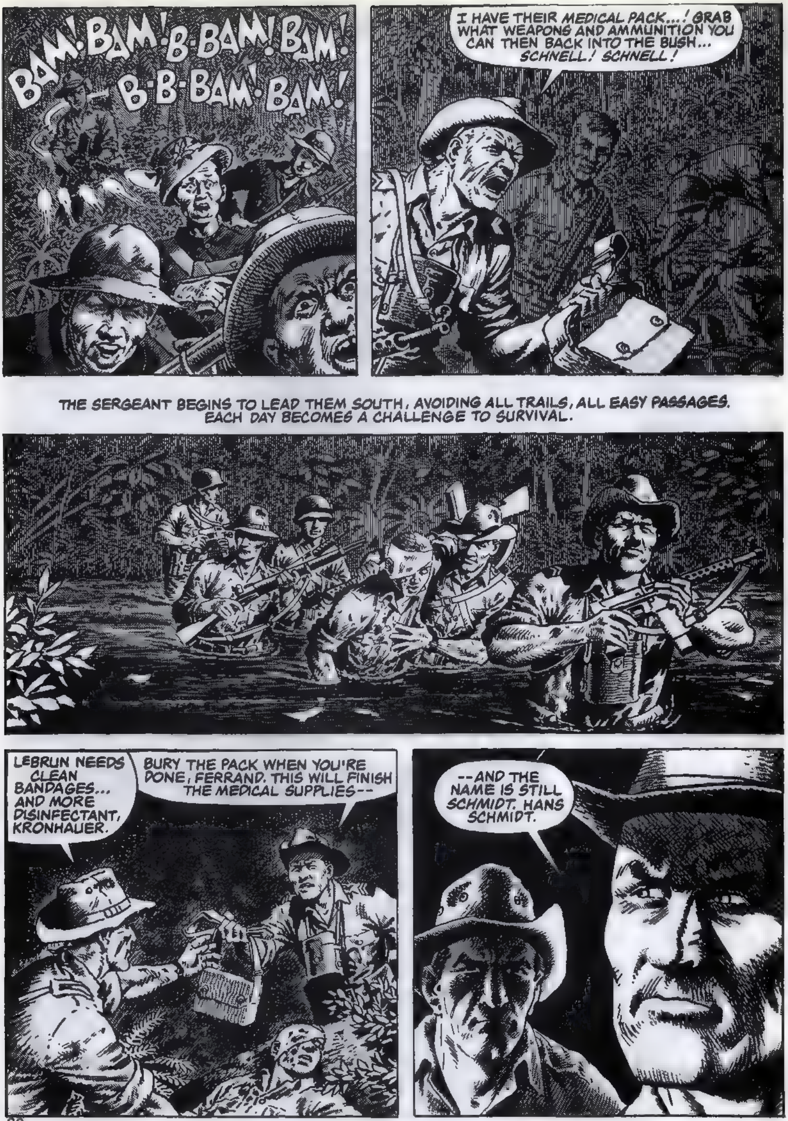
WE WERE TO LINK WITH THE THIRD BATTALION LEGIONAIRES EVACUATING OUR OUTPOST AT CAO BANG... THERE'S A CHANCE THEY'LL SHOW UP, LEBRUN.
THERE'S A CHANCE HO CHI MINH WILL APPEAR ON THAT SLOPE AND OFFER US SAFE CONDUCT. TIMES LIKE THIS, FERRAND, I WONDER WHY I JOINED THE LEGION--
BRATTA-TAT!
SPAT!
BIWEEE!
--THEN I REMEMBER THE TWO COUNTS OF ARMED ROBBERY HANGING OVER ME IN MARSIELLE. BUT YOU, MY FRIEND...! YOU CHANGED COMPANIES JUST TO TAKE PART IN THIS MAD EXPEDITION!
THAT TRULY MAKES ME WONDER! THE GENERALS DOWN IN SAIGON SAY THE CHINA BORDER POSTS ARE TOO DANGEROUS TO MAINTAIN--
BRAT-TATTA-TAT
BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM!BAM!
--BUT FOR THE SAKE OF HONOR THE TROOPS MUST MARCH THEIR WAY THROUGH MILES OF VIETMINH INSTEAD OF SENSIBLY BEING FLOWN OUT! MADNESS! AND YOU RUSHED TO BE IN THE MIDDLE OF IT, FERRAND?
AS I RUSHED TO BE IN THE LEGION.
B-BAM!
THERE IS A GERMAN UNIT AMONG THOSE EVACUATING CAO BANG, LEBRUN. WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THIS RELIEF COLUMN I KNEW IT MIGHT BE THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO SEE MANY OF THEM ALIVE.
YOU'RE PARISIAN. DIDN'T YOU SEE ENOUGH GERMANS DURING THE OCCUPATION?
THERE IS ONE PARTICULAR GERMAN I HOPE TO SEE. FINDING HIM IS WHY I BECAME A LEGIONAIRE...


PARIS 1944.
KAPITAN KRONHAUER! DAMAGE TO THE HALF-TRACK WAS NOT SERIOUS... NO NEED TO DELAY PULLING OUT. FREE FRENCH UNITS ARE ALREADY IN SOME SECTORS SO--
WHAT OF HESS AND WEHRMAN?
DEAD... THE MEDICS COULD DO NOTHING FOR THEM. HERR KAPITAN, IF WE HOPE TO ESCAPE ...WE MUST GO NOW.
NOT BEFORE I MAKE SOMETHING CLEAR TO THE YOUNG GENTLEMEN WE ARE LEAVING BEHIND. FORTUNATELY, I SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE WELL.
SO! HAVING YOUR CITY ON THE BRINK OF FREEDOM EXCITED YOU INTO PLAYING RESISTANCE FIGHTERS. UNDERSTANDABLE... BUT NOT AT THE COST OF TWO SEASONED VETERANS MY COMPANY WILL SORELY NEED IN THE DAYS AHEAD.
YOU ATTACKED US AND FAILED. IF THIS WAS A GAME, YOU MUST NOW LEARN IT IS PLAYED WITH HIGH CONSEQUENCES.
ALAIN...! WE'RE GOING TO DIE...! YOU'RE MY BIG BROTHER... YOU ALWAYS THINK OF SOMETHING TO GET US OUT OF TROUBLE...! PLEASE...!
COURAGE, PAUL...! HE'S WORKING HIS WAY FROM THE OTHER END...! PERHAPS BEFORE HE REACHES US--
KRAK!
KRAK!
KRAK!
KRAK!
KRAK!
PAUL!
KRAK!

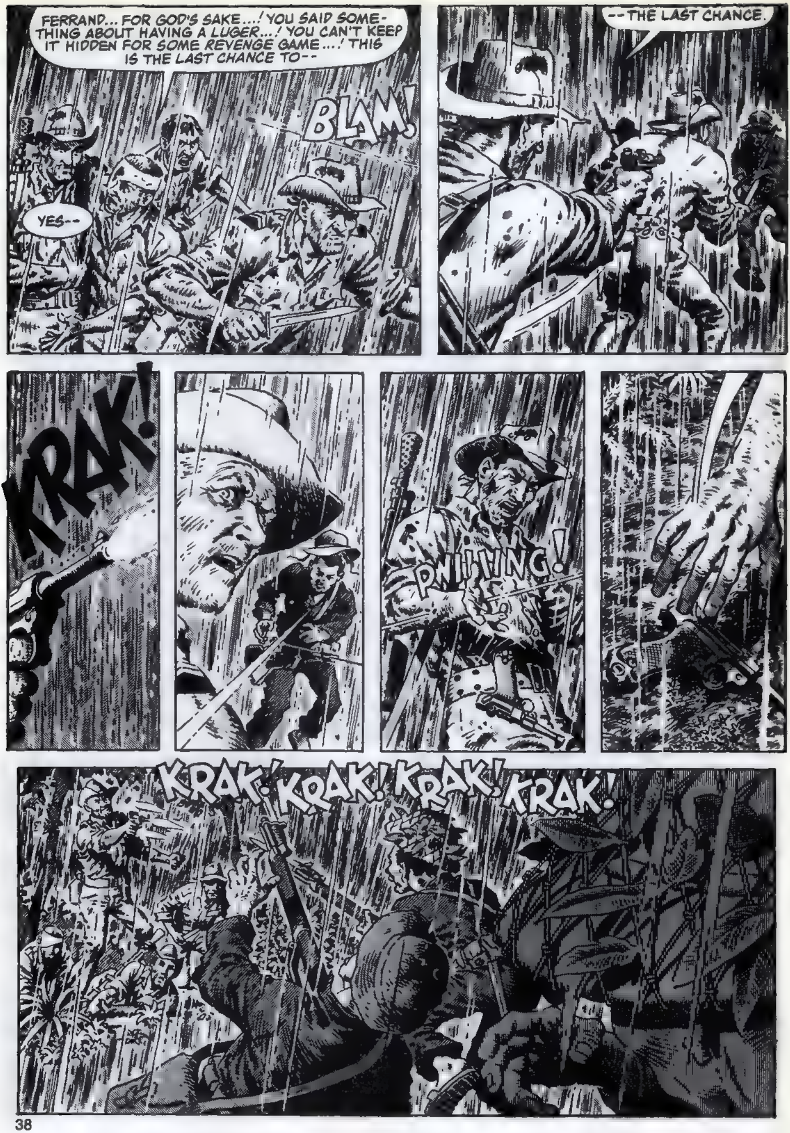
THE SHOT THAT KILLED MY BROTHER WAS THE LAST IN THE GERMAN'S CLIP. BEFORE HE COULD RELOAD, THEY HEARD OUR TANKS APPROACHING AND FLED. I VOWED I'D FIND THAT CAPTAIN AND KILL HIM, LEBRUN.
AND YOU'RE CONVINCED HE'S IN THE LEGION?
BRATTA-TAT!
HIS UNIT WAS CAPTURED OUTSIDE PARIS. TO AVOID PRISON, MOST AGREED TO LEGION SERVICE. LEARNING THIS AFTER THE WAR, I VOLUNTEERED ALSO. AND SOMEDAY I'LL COME ACROSS ERNST KRONHAUER. I'VE EVEN ACQUIRED A LUGER I KEEP WITH ME TO--
FERRAND! LEBRUN! ON THE DOUBLE! THE COMMANDER HAS A JOB FOR US!
JOB?! IT'S A TYPICAL LEGION SUICIDE MISSION! IF WE'VE FOUND THIS OLD TRAIL... SURELY SO HAVE THE VIETMINH!
NO BELLYACHING, LEBRUN! THERE'S BEEN RADIO CONTACT WITH THE THIRD BATTALION. THEY'RE UNDER ATTACK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS RIDGE! ALL WE HAVE TO DO--
"--IS CLEAR THE TRAIL SO BOTH FORCES CAN LINK UP!" AND WHAT DO THEY THINK UNCLE HO'S CHILDREN WILL BE DOING MEANWHILE?
NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY'RE UP IN HERE YET, LEBRUN. BUT KEEP QUIET JUST IN--
BLOOD OF A PIG! THE UPPER TRAIL'S MINED, FERRAND!
BOUM!
BOUM!

INTO THE BUSH, LEBRUN! THEY CAN'T HAVE THE ENTIRE MOUNTAINSIDE COVERED!
BWEEEE!
PWINNNG!
PWING!
PWINNG!
BRRIIIIIPP!
BRKRIIIIIPP!
W-WHAT... ?
WHUD!
WHOMP!!
FERRAND... DOWN!

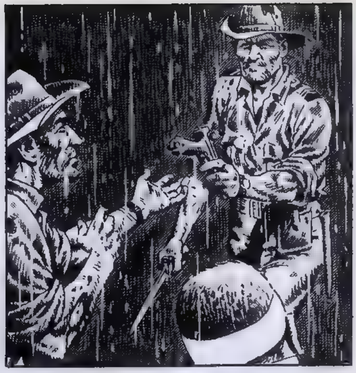
OH, GOD...! I'M HIT, FERRAND...! SHRAPNEL FROM THE BLAST...! IT...IT GOT MY EYE! GOD...! I CAN FEEL IT RUNNING DOWN MY CHEEK!
SHUT UP BELOW... BEFORE THAT YOWLING BRINGS MORE VIETMINH! I'M COMING DOWN!
I'M SCHMIDT. SERGEANT. THIRD BATTALION. OUT OF CAO BANG. I HAVE MORPHINE FOR YOUR FRIEND'S PAIN.
YOU SPEAK FRENCH WELL, SERGEANT. IT REMINDS ME OF ANOTHER GERMAN I ONCE KNEW.
BETTER TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THE PRESENT, LEGIONAIRE--
WOMP! WOMP! WOMP! WOMP! WOMP!
--THE VIETMINH ARE MOVING IN ON YOUR COLUMN AS THEY ALREADY DID ON MINE! WE'VE GOT TO GATHER ANY OTHER STRAGGLERS AND FIGHT OUR WAY OFF THIS VERDAMMT RIDGE!
DAWN. BEYOND THE RIDGE, THE JUNGLE VALLEY...
...SWARMING WITH VIETMINH PATROLS.


BAM! BAM! B-BAM! BAM! B-B-BAM! BAM!
I HAVE THEIR MEDICAL PACK...! GRAB WHAT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION YOU CAN THEN BACK INTO THE BUSH... SCHNELL! SCHNELL!
THE SERGEANT BEGINS TO LEAD THEM SOUTH, AVOIDING ALL TRAILS, ALL EASY PASSAGES. EACH DAY BECOMES A CHALLENGE TO SURVIVAL.
LEBRUN NEEDS CLEAN BANDAGES... AND MORE DISINFECTANT, KRONHAUER.
BURY THE PACK WHEN YOU'RE DONE, FERRAND. THIS WILL FINISH THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES--
--AND THE NAME IS STILL SCHMIDT. HANS SCHMIDT.

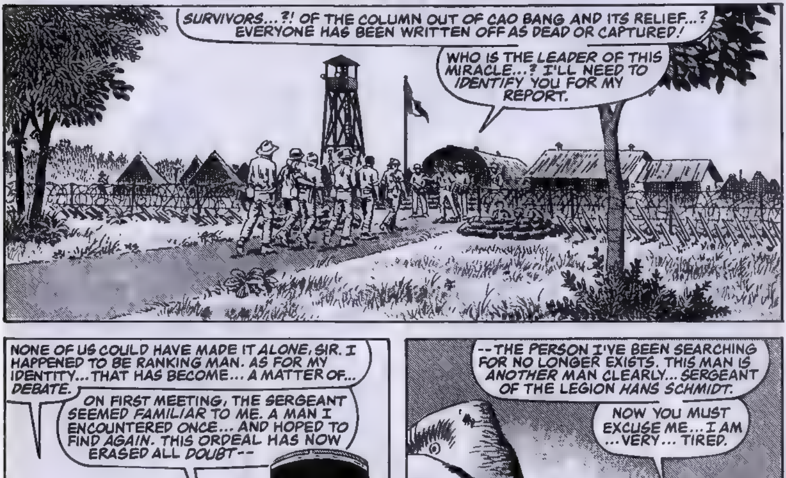
MEN ARE BORN AGAIN IN THE LEGION, FERRAND. THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WE JOIN. WHOEVER YOU THINK THE SERGEANT MIGHT HAVE BEEN... LET IT GO.
THE MAN HE'S BECOME IS ALL THAT'S PULLING US THROUGH THIS.
ENOUGH, SCHMIDT...! WE CAN'T GO ON...! NOT NOW...! NOT LIKE THIS...! DAYS WITHOUT FOOD... AMMUNITION...
BLAM!
BLAM!
BAYONETS! READY YOUR BAYONETS!



FERRAND... FOR GOD'S SAKE...! YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT HAVING A LUGER...! YOU CAN'T KEEP IT HIDDEN FOR SOME REVENGE GAME...! THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE TO--
BLAM!
YES--
--THE LAST CHANCE.
KRAK!
PWIIIING!
KRAK! KRAK! KRAK! KRAK!



THAT KHE. TO THE AMAZEMENT OF FRENCH FORCES GARRISONED THERE A TINY, SPENT GROUP OF MEN STAGGER THROUGH THE POST GATES.



PARIS 1955
YOU SERVED WITH THIS MAN IN INDO-CHINA, FERRAND...! HE SAVED YOUR LIFE THERE...!
ARMY RECORDS RADIOED THE INFORMATION TO US ON OUR WAY HERE. HOW COULD YOU JUST WALK IN AND MURDER HIM LIKE THIS...?!
NO. NOT MURDER. REVENGE.
THE GUILLOTINE MAKES NO SUCH DISTINCTION! PARTICULARLY NOT WHEN THE VICTIM IS A HERO OF FRANCE! AFTER SAVING YOUR MISERABLE HIDE, THE MAN WENT ON TO WIN THE LEGION OF HONOUR AT DIEN BIEN PHU!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. HANS SCHMIDT WON THE MEDAL.
AND WAS GRANTED FULL AMNESTY BECAUSE OF IT. HE WAS ABLE TO RETIRE FROM THE SERVICE, LIVE OUT THE REST OF HIS LIFE IN HIS TRUE IDENTITY--
--UNTIL YOU CUT HIM DOWN!
EXACTLY. HANS SCHMIDT WAS THE FOREIGN LEGIONAIRE WHO EARNED MY RESPECT--
--BUT ERNST KRONHAUER IS STILL THE MAN WHO KILLED MY BROTHER.

BLOOD
A PIZZA?!!
SLAM!
A PIZZA!!
BLOOD, WAIT!
SHE WANTS ME T'GET 'ER A DAD-BLAMED PIZZA!
WRITTEN, DRAWN & LETTERED BY
WILL JUNGKUNTZ
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
LARRY HAMA, EDITOR
FOR INITIAL INSPIRATION, AND
JIM SHOOTER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

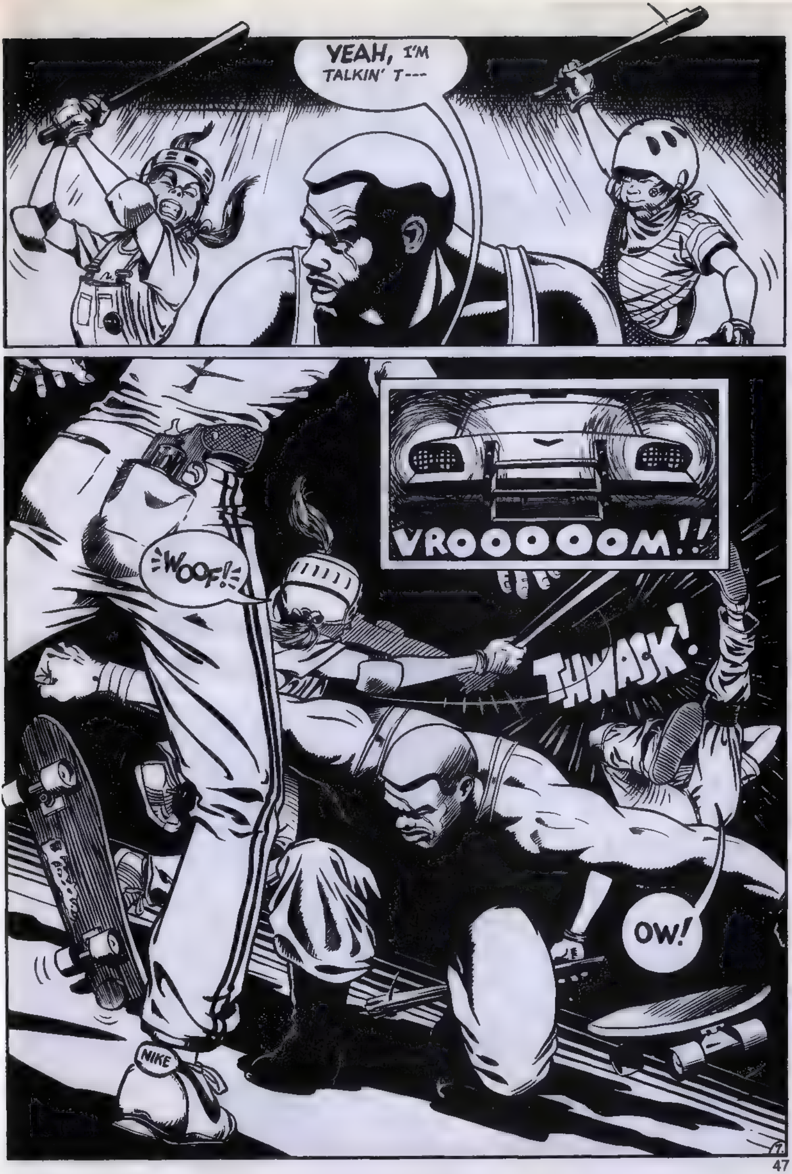
JES' 'CAUSE TH'ONLY PLACE IN L.A. YOU C'N STILL GET A PIZZA IS "ONLY TEN BLOCKS AWAY"!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S BLOOD-- HE WENT OUT-- FOR A PIZZA!
HE WHAT?
HOME... IN PASADEE-NA... HOME... WHERE GRASS IS GREE-NA..
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
I WAS JUST SAYING HOW I WISHED WE COULD HAVE A PIZZA FROM THAT PLACE DOWN THE HILL---
---AN' ALLUVA SUDDEN HE GOES STOMPING OUT!
IT'S HIS OWN STUPID FAULT, Y'KNOW...

YOU TAKE THAT BACK!
FACE IT, HONEY...
...THE MAN IS A FLAKE!
HE IS NOT!
REMEMBER THE LAST TIME HE "STOMPED OUT" ALL ALONE?
---AND CAME BACK WITH HALF THE COMPTON CRIPS ON HIS TAIL?
PIPE DOWN, YOU TWO--
--THIS COULD BE TROUBLE.
COULD BE? THAT MOOSE IS A WALKING DISASTER!
SHUT UP!
OWOOOOOOO
GUTZ, HE LEFT HIS GUNS!
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?
DON'T KNOW THAT THERE'S MUCH WE CAN DO, BIT...
...IF IT'S A HUNTING NIGHT...

"...HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE!"
IT DON'T MATTER THERE'S A FULL MOON OUT--
...DON'T MATTER TH' NEIGHBORHOOD'LL BE CRAWLIN' WITH MUTANT WHATSITS AN' CANNIBAL STREET GANGS...
...DON'T EVEN MATTER 'AT TH' CITY'S BEEN THROUGH 3 FIRESTORMS, 2 FLOODS AN' A "NUCLEAR WINTER" SINCE TH' WAR...
...LI'L BIT WANTS A PIZZA...
WHAM!
...AN' HOMEBOY HERE'S TH'ONE 'AT'S GOTTA GO FETCH IT!
I SWEAR...
...'F I DIN'T LOVE HER SO MUCH...
THAP!

...I'D STRANGLE TH' LADY!
DROPPIN' ALL THESE LI'L HINTS...
--LIKE I'M S'POSED T'READ HER MIND OR SUMP'N...
WHUMP!
STILL YET? BROKE IT SOME MORE, SLICK!
Phone
'EY!
--HOW Y'SPELL "DEGENERATES"?
DA
FAKE IT, CHO--
BLOOD-?
"HASN'T IT BEEN TH' LONGEST TIME SINCE YOU'VE HAD A PIZZA?"
"DON'T YOU WISH WE COULD HAVE ONE FROM THAT PLACE DOWN THE HILL?"
DA young DE

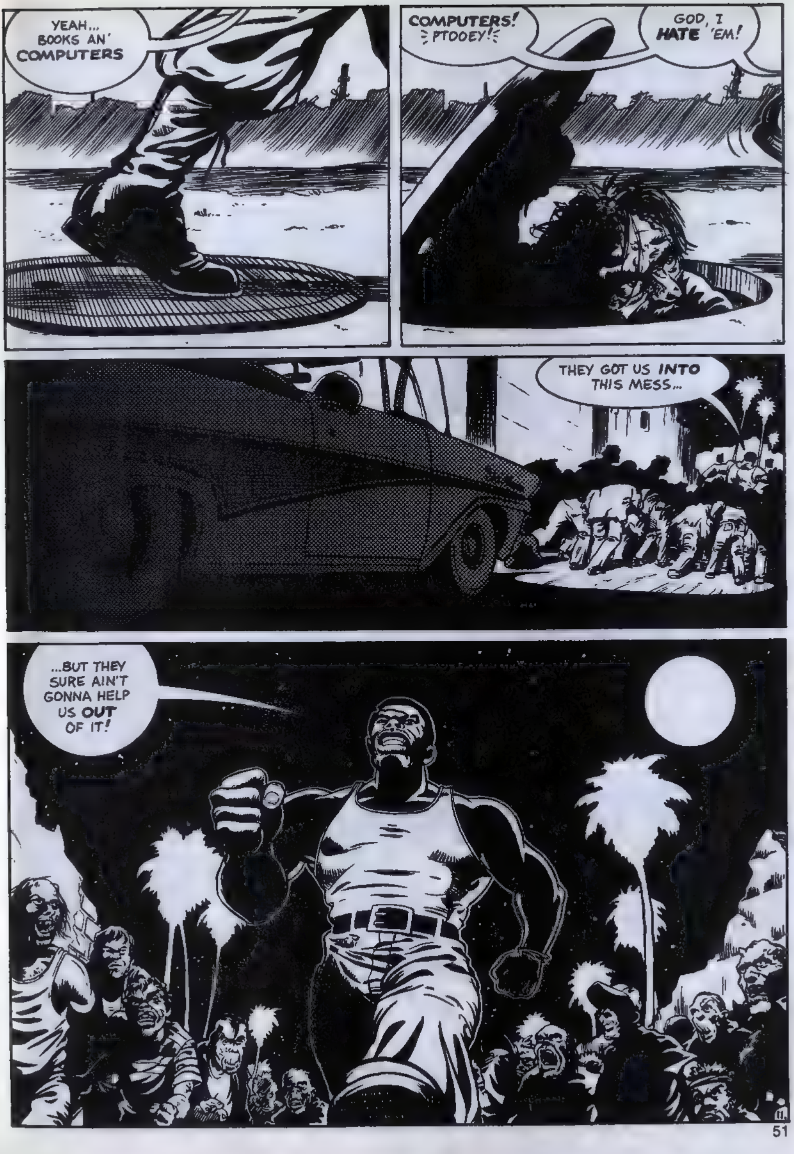
YOU RUN DECOY.
I'M GONE.
POUND SAND, SISTER!
SLAM!
'AT'S WHAT I SHOULD'A SAID!
I--
YO, COCOMO JOE!
DEM'S SOME PLENNY RIGHTEOUS TREADS DEAH!
YEAH, I SPARK DEM RAT-KICKERS 'N I SEZ "WOOOO, LATER FO' DESE NIKES!"
YOU ON DEGENERATES TURF, BRO!
'KAY DEN, YOU LIKE GO HOME ALL ONE PIECE...
...MO' BETTAH YOU BE SLIPPIN' OFF DEM PUPS FIRST!
YOU TALKIN' T'ME?


YEAH, I'M TALKIN' T---
VROOOOOM!!
WOOF!
THWACK!
OW!
NIKE

TRY WAIT, MON! COOL HEAD MAIN T'ING.
LISSEN, SHORT-STOP, I'M COMIN' THROUGH, SO...
SO? GETTIN' HUNGRY?
BONK!
WHY SHE STILL WANTS KIDS I'LL NEVER KNOW...
RRRRRRRR
...SHE HARDLY LOOKED MORE'N A KID HERSELF 'N I FIRST SAW HER...
'S HARD T'B'LIEVE SHE'D AWREADY BIN A REFINERY WORKER...

STILL REMEMBER TH'FIRST TIME I SAW HER, THOUGH...
...TAKIN' TICKETS IN THAT LITTLE BITTY BOOTH...
NGUUUHH...
GOD, GUNS & GUTS MADE THIS COUNTRY GREAT
RRR
'WAS A BRUCE LEE DOUBLE-BILL 'N SHE SURE LOOKED CUTE...
AIEEE!
'N NOW SHE'S GOT ME RUNNIN' ERRANDS IN THIS STINKIN' HELLHOLE...
...RISKIN' MY NECK F'R A DAD-BLAMED PIZZA!
9

NO USE AKSIN' GUTZ T'HELP OUT...
'F WE AIN'T ON A JOB...
...HE'D RATHER BE COOPED UP IN 'IS ROOM...
...LISTENIN' T'HIS OL' VICTROLA...
...N' TRANSCRIBIN' TH' TORAH FUM MEMORY OR SUMP'N LIKE DAT.
VDNNNNN
WHY'ZEE THINK 'EEZ GOTTA REPLACE TH' WHOLE L.A. PUBLIC LIBAIRY BY HISSELF?
IT'S BOOKS 'AT GOT US INTO THIS MESS INNA FIRST PLACE!
RRRRRR-


YEAH... BOOKS AN' COMPUTERS
COMPUTERS! PTOOEY!
GOD, I HATE 'EM!
THEY GOT US INTO THIS MESS...
...BUT THEY SURE AIN'T GONNA HELP US OUT OF IT!

'S GONNA TAKE MORE'N A BUNCH'A SILICON **CHIPS** T'GET US A LATE-NIGHT SNACK!
GKNKSKBGGH..
GLGGTH...
MREEEEE...
NGK NGK
BFZSFTLK!
NUK HRUG
'N EVEN IF I GET BACK **ALIVE** WITH IT, 'M GONNA HAFTA BEAT **MAXI** OFF WITH A **STICK**!
NGRRRRR
I SWEAR, F'R SUCH A **SKINNY** CHICK, SHE SURE EATS LIKE A **PIG**!
ALLUS RIDIN' ME 'BOUT MY EDJICAYSHUN... I TELL YA...

I'M—
TIRED'A—
BEIN'—
PUSHED—

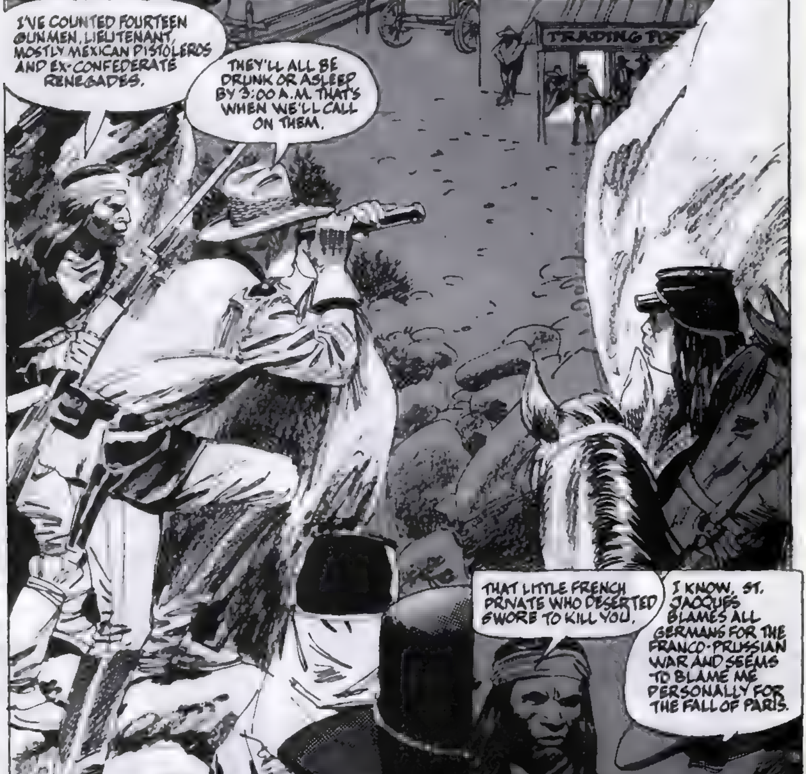
-AROUND!
OH, GREAT--
--THESE MORONS'RE ARMED!
I GUESS FORBIDDEN CITY PIZZA....
...'S GONNA HAFTA GET BY...
...WITH ONE LESS...
--CUSTOMER!

RATTATATTATATTATATTATATTATATTATATTATA
TATTATATTATTATT!
GODAMMIT, BLOOD--!
--WHEN ARE YOU GONNA LEARN TO TAKE THE CAR?!
Yo' Mama
15

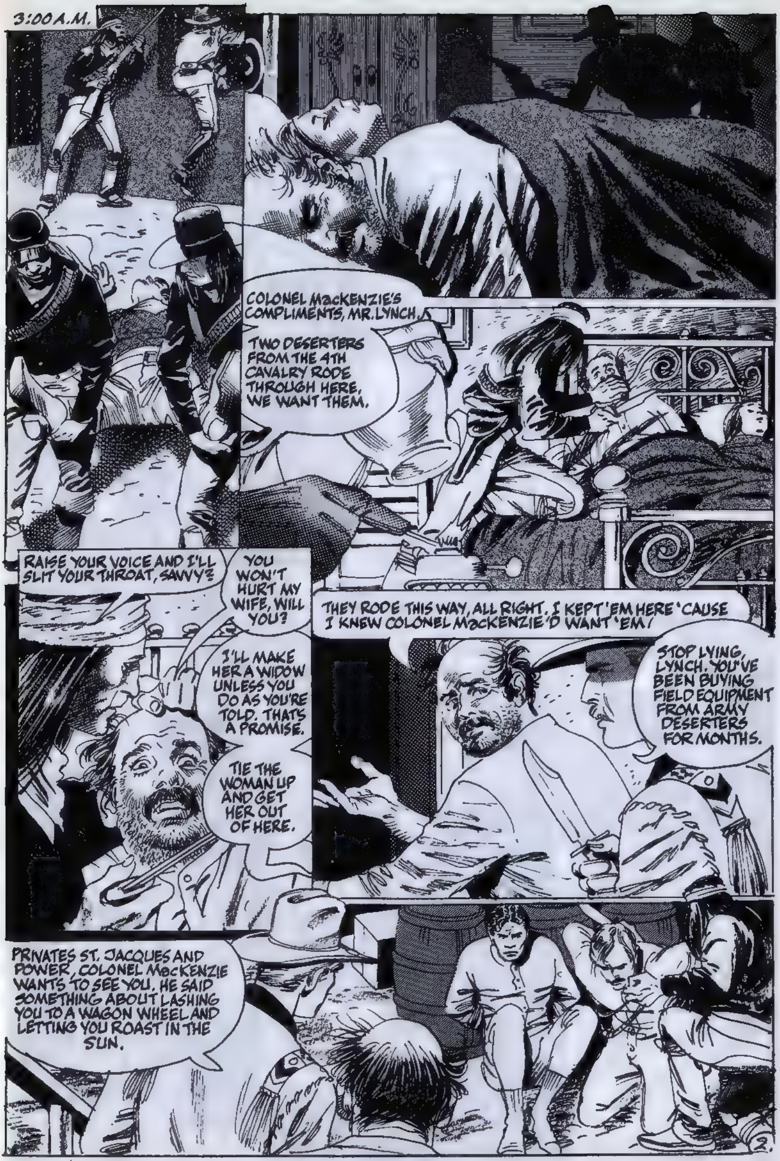
THE END

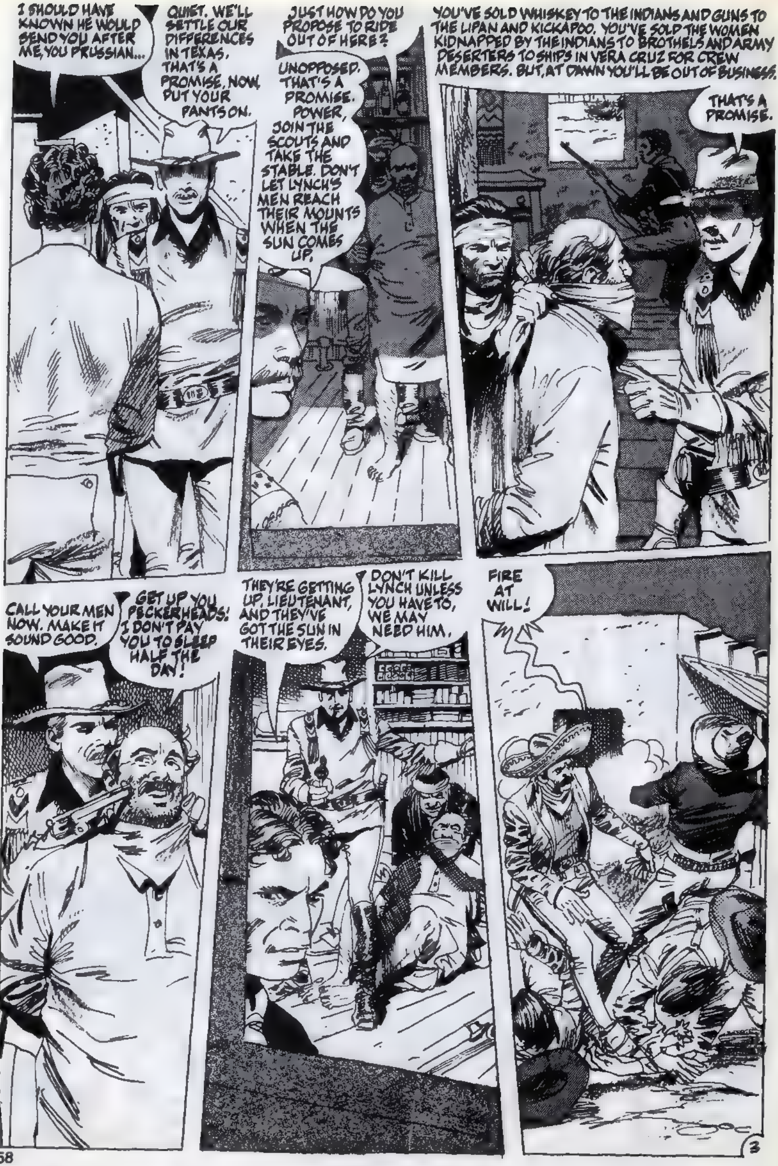
1873: ON THE MEXICAN SIDE OF THE RIO GRANDE, LT. PETER BOEHM, CHIEF OF SCOUTS FOR THE 4TH U.S. CAVALRY, AND HIS SEMINOLE INDIAN SCOUTS HAVE TRACKED A PAIR OF DESERTERS TO EBBE EBBEN LYNCH'S TRADING POST. COLONEL RANALD MACKENZIE GAVE ORDERS TO BRING THE DESERTERS BACK ALIVE IF THEY COULD, BUT TO **BRING THEM BACK...**

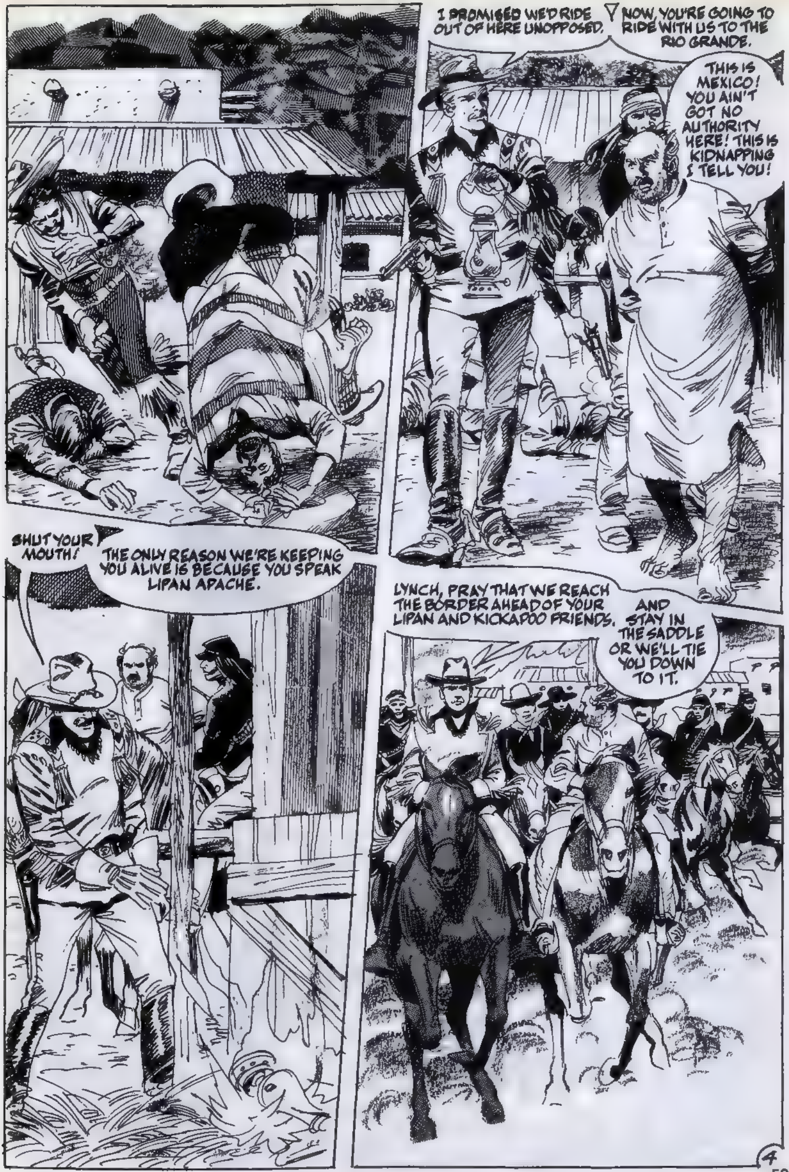
ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE



STORY: DON KRAAR
ART & LETTERING: GRAY MORROW
EDITOR: LARRY HAMA


3:00 A.M.
COLONEL MacKENZIE'S COMPLIMENTS, MR. LYNCH.
TWO DESERTERS FROM THE 4TH CAVALRY RODE THROUGH HERE. WE WANT THEM.
RAISE YOUR VOICE AND I'LL SLIT YOUR THROAT, SAVVY?
YOU WON'T HURT MY WIFE, WILL YOU?
I'LL MAKE HER A WIDOW UNLESS YOU DO AS YOU'RE TOLD. THAT'S A PROMISE.
TIE THE WOMAN UP AND GET HER OUT OF HERE.
THEY RODE THIS WAY, ALL RIGHT. I KEPT 'EM HERE 'CAUSE I KNEW COLONEL MacKENZIE'D WANT 'EM!
STOP LYING, LYNCH. YOU'VE BEEN BUYING FIELD EQUIPMENT FROM ARMY DESERTERS FOR MONTHS.
PRIVATES ST. JACQUES AND POWER, COLONEL MacKENZIE WANTS TO SEE YOU. HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT LASHING YOU TO A WAGON WHEEL AND LETTING YOU ROAST IN THE SUN.
2.


I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WOULD SEND YOU AFTER ME, YOU PRUSSIAN...
QUIET. WE'LL SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES IN TEXAS. THAT'S A PROMISE. NOW, PUT YOUR PANTS ON.
JUST HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO RIDE OUT OF HERE?
UNOPPOSED. THAT'S A PROMISE. POWER, JOIN THE SCOUTS AND TAKE THE STABLE. DON'T LET LYNCH'S MEN REACH THEIR MOUNTS WHEN THE SUN COMES UP.
YOU'VE SOLD WHISKEY TO THE INDIANS AND GUNS TO THE LIPAN AND KICKAPOO. YOU'VE SOLD THE WOMEN KIDNAPPED BY THE INDIANS TO BROTHELS AND ARMY DESERTERS TO SHIPS IN VERA CRUZ FOR CREW MEMBERS. BUT, AT DAWN YOU'LL BE OUT OF BUSINESS.
THAT'S A PROMISE.
CALL YOUR MEN NOW. MAKE IT SOUND GOOD.
GET UP YOU PECKERHEADS! I DON'T PAY YOU TO SLEEP HALF THE DAY!
THEY'RE GETTING UP, LIEUTENANT, AND THEY'VE GOT THE SUN IN THEIR EYES.
DON'T KILL LYNCH UNLESS YOU HAVE TO. WE MAY NEED HIM.
FIRE AT WILL!
3


I PROMISED WE'D RIDE OUT OF HERE UNOPPOSED.
NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO RIDE WITH US TO THE RIO GRANDE.
THIS IS MEXICO! YOU AIN'T GOT NO AUTHORITY HERE! THIS IS KIDNAPPING I TELL YOU!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
THE ONLY REASON WE'RE KEEPING YOU ALIVE IS BECAUSE YOU SPEAK LIPAN APACHE.
LYNCH, PRAY THAT WE REACH THE BORDER AHEAD OF YOUR LIPAN AND KICKAPOO FRIENDS.
AND STAY IN THE SADDLE OR WE'LL TIE YOU DOWN TO IT.
4

HERE COME YOUR LIPAN AND KICKAPOO FRIENDS, LYNCH. MAYBE YOU CAN SELL THEM SOME MORE WHISKEY.
AND PERHAPS THEY WILL SETTLE OUR QUARREL FOR US, EH, LIEUTENANT?
THEY DON'T SEEM TO WANT TO TALK, LYNCH.
YOU'VE OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS, LYNCH. NOW, GET AWAY!
POW! POW! POW!
DON'T LEAVE ME, BOEHM! THEY'LL STAKE ME OUT FOR THE FIRE ANTS! YOU PROMISED TO HELP ME!
THAT'S RIGHT...
AND I PROMISED TO PUT YOU OUT OF BUSINESS, TOO.
YOU SAID WE'D SETTLE THINGS ON THE TEXAS SIDE, LIEUTENANT! REMEMBER?
IF WE'RE STILL ALIVE, YOU FRENCH CUR!
5

WELL, HE WON'T HAVE TO FACE COLONEL MACKENZIE!
PERHAPS NONE OF US WILL, LIEUTENANT. IN THAT CASE YOU AND I WILL HAVE TO SETTLE MATTERS IN PERDITION!
THE ENEMY IS OUT THERE, ST. JACQUES!
IT'S STUCK.
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE CHAMBER COOLS BEFORE YOU CAN EJECT THAT SHELL.
BY THAT TIME IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD.
YOU'LL NEVER REACH YOUR SIDEARM, BOEHM.
GO ON, MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CHANCE, BEFORE THEY COURT MARTIAL YOU.

THEY'RE FALLING BACK, LIEUTENANT!
COURT MARTIALED FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE? I THINK NOT, LIEUTENANT!
I JUST WANTED TO WATCH YOU SWEAT-FOR NOW.
YOU FRENCH CUR...
I SWEAR I'LL MAKE YOU WISH YOU'D KILLED ME WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE!
FIRST I'M GOING TO LET COLONEL Mackenzie HAVE YOU, AND THEN IT'S GOING TO BE MY TURN....
7

FORT CLARK, TEXAS, HEADQUARTERS OF THE FOURTH U.S. CAVALRY...
HERE...
Y...Y... YOU...
GO ON, DRINK.
I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE YOU SURVIVE UNHARMED.
SLOWLY... THAT'S IT.
I'M GLAD THAT YOU TOOK COLONEL MacKENZIE'S ADVICE AND RE-ENLISTED RATHER THAN FACE A COURT MARTIAL.
I'M GLAD BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO BE UNDER MY COMMAND, PRIVATE, AND I'M GOING TO WATCH YOU SWEAT!
AND THAT IS A PROMISE.
8

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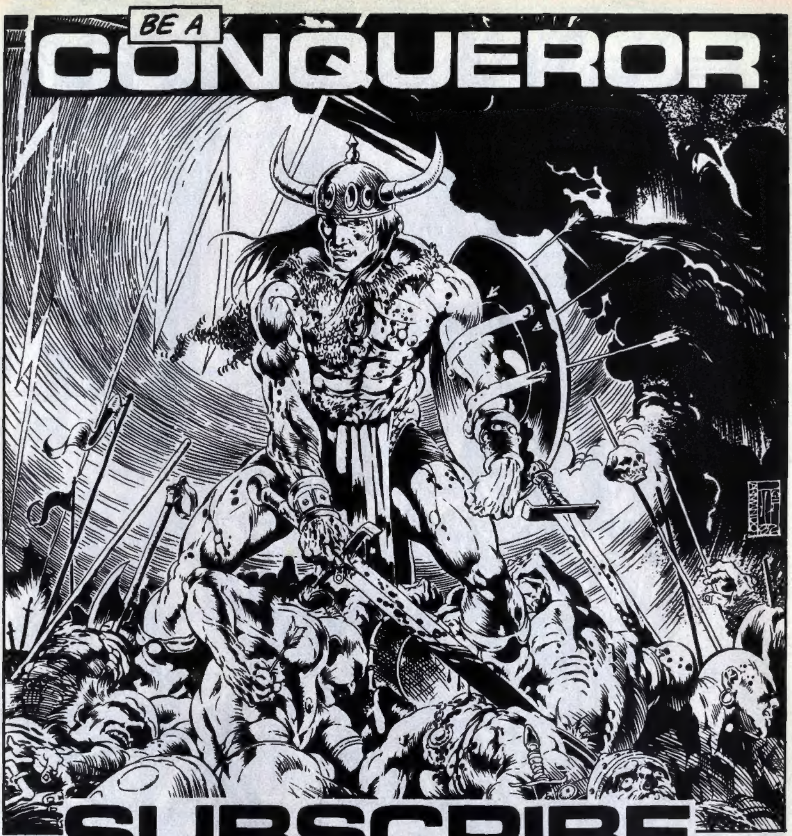

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